



Making Your Stay Official in France

French Visas and Residence Cards

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to the French government officials. The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits, or answer questions concerning a specific case.

Tourists:

U.S. citizens planning to enter and visit France for a maximum of 3 months (90 days) as tourists do not require a visa under the visa waiver program, and are permitted to remain in the country only for that period of time. (See page 11 for Schengen Treaty Member Country requirements.) You may refer to the website of the [French Embassy](#) for further information.

All questions concerning overstaying a visit on the French visa waiver program must be addressed directly to the French Embassy or Consulate in the United States: fax 202 944 6212, or by e-mail visas@consulfrance-washington.org, or contact the préfecture nearest your residence in France. **The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits, or answer questions concerning a specific case.** (See pages 12-14 for a list of French Consulates in the United States.)

Residing in France:

Americans planning to stay in France for more than 3 months, or for purposes other than tourism, must obtain a visa prior to departure from the United States. U.S. citizens must apply at the French Consulate having jurisdiction where they reside in the United States. (See list of French Consulates in the U.S. on pages 12-14.) You may refer to the website of the French Embassy for further information <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article359>.

Working in France:

In order to work in France, American citizens must hold a valid French work permit which is obtained at the *préfecture* in France after a visa is issued from the French Consulate in the applicant's country of residence. The visa is valid for France only. Please visit the French Embassy website page <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?rubrique150> for further information.

Very Important Note: Persons who have not obtained the required visa for extended stay (more than 90 days) in the European Union may be detained and/or refused authorization to continue traveling, at any time, by immigration officials in any of the Schengen Member Treaty Countries.

Note: It is not possible for an American citizen to come to France as a tourist and then change his/her status to that of a worker, a student or a resident. The French authorities will require such individuals to return to the U.S. to apply for the appropriate visa.

Employment in France

Americans hoping to enter the French labor market are cautioned that it is very difficult to find employment. To be able to work in France, Americans, except for those in special categories (see below,) must have arranged employment approved in advance by the French Ministry of Labor and they must have obtained a long stay work visa before entering France (see "Visa Requirements for France" on page 7.) The Embassy will not intervene with French Authorities on behalf of American citizens seeking a visa, visa exemption or work permit.

Americans who disregard the visa requirement and apply in France for a work permit are required to leave the country to obtain the appropriate visa at a French consular office in the U.S. American citizens should not come to France expecting to find a job and to change their status after arrival. Such expectations are unlikely to be fulfilled and personal hardship may result. Most foreigners are not eligible for French Social Security or unemployment benefits. In some cases, individuals may have difficulties with French authorities and may face expulsion from France.

Employment Situation in France:

There has been a virtual freeze on the employment of nationals of all countries other than nationals of member countries of the European Union. Unemployment in France for the first quarter of 2010 reached about 9.9% (<http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/info-rapide.asp?id=14&date=20100603>) and French laws and regulations governing immigration and employment in France are enforced with increasing rigor.

A few categories of Americans in France are in a special position with regard to employment. These are:

- a. bearers of a carte de résident who have resided in France in that category for ten years;
- b. spouses of French citizens.

Most Americans, however, do not fall into any of these special categories. The only other Americans who have any chance for full-time employment in France are highly skilled technicians and qualified managerial (*cadre*) personnel. Some students can qualify for part-time *au-pair* employment, and other students can qualify for part-time or summer employment. There are also some voluntary collective work programs. Visas for any of these jobs must be obtained before entering France. The Embassy cannot assist Americans to find employment in France, but this information sheet as well as the related ones herein offer some guidance.

Persons seeking Employment:

In addition to the basic requirements, an American who wishes to work in France needs a work contract approved by the French Ministry of Labor. This means that the French employer is required to present the signed contract to the Ministry with a request for its approval.

A medical examination is required (within the last three months and usually by a doctor on a list prepared by the French Consulate); the visa applicant is expected to pay the doctor's fee.

For more information about working in France please see the French Embassy website pages:

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article360>

and

http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article500&var_recherche=etudier%20en%20france

Teaching Positions:

The teaching field in France is largely closed to Americans. Teachers in French public secondary schools and public universities must be French citizens. At the secondary level, the only exceptions are teaching assistants. Public universities can hire foreigners as visiting professors (*Professeurs Associés*) or as *Maîtres de Conférences Associés*, Assistants and *Lecteurs*. The Franco-American Commission for Educational Exchange in Paris (Fulbright Commission) can provide information on openings for visiting lecturers in France and has a general information sheet on "Teaching Positions in France" with useful addresses in both France and the United States. Interested persons may write to:

Franco-American Commission for Education Exchange

9 rue Chardin

75016 Paris

Educational Advising Center tel: 0 892 68 07 47

Website: (<http://www.fulbright-france.org>)

E-mail: cfa@fulbright-france.org

For further information on teaching in France you may refer to this website page:

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article375>

For further information on French Employment Laws please refer to the following website:

<http://www.avrio.net/533.0.html>.

Exchange program: (*convention de stages*)

There is a reciprocal agreement between France and the United States on exchange programs. For more information on this program, please refer to the following website page:

http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article391&var_recherche=convention%20de%20stages

Employment with American firms in France:

The Embassy has no information on employment opportunities with private firms in France. A detailed list, "American Firms in France", is available at the:

American Chamber of Commerce in France

156 Boulevard Haussmann

75008 Paris

Phone: +33 (0) 1 56 43 45 67

Fax: +33 (0) 1 56 43 45 60

Website: <http://www.amchamfrance.org>

E-mail: amchamfrance@amchamfrance.org

The Chamber of Commerce itself does not handle inquiries on employment opportunities.

Establishing a business in France:

Americans considering establishing a business in France can begin by contacting the Commercial Counselor at the nearest French Consulate in the United States for information and guidance. Interested Americans may also write to: American Embassy, Commercial Affairs Section, 2 Av. Gabriel, 75382 Paris Cedex 08.

Employment at the United States Embassy:

Under certain conditions, the Embassy recruits American citizens locally. For further information, please contact the Office of Human Resources directly, Tel: 01 43 12 25 74.

The following information pertains to employment of U.S. Citizens within the Embassy and the Consulates, UNESCO and OECD. Please note that, due to the current fiscal climate, employment opportunities are limited.

The Human Resources Office accepts and considers only applications that are associated with a specific vacancy announcement. Job opportunities are posted on the Embassy website at: http://france.usembassy.gov/job_opportunities.html.

With the exception of certain Eligible Family Members of Mission employees, all other categories of candidates must have the required work and residency permits at the time that they apply for local positions in France. **Please note that the U.S. Embassy is not able to sponsor candidates for a work entry visa to France.**

Local position vacancies are generally advertised internally and externally, concurrently, or at times internally only. The recruitment process is competitive and it is essential that candidates address the selection criteria (required qualifications) for the vacancy with specific and comprehensive information. When equally qualified, candidates will be given preference in the following order: Appointment Eligible Family Members, U.S. veterans claiming preference, and all others.

The application language is English unless a position requires only a limited knowledge of English. A complete application package must include:

- A cover letter indicating the job title/number and highlighting the particular qualifications for the position as advertised.
- A current detailed resume which provides the following additional information as appropriate:
- For all - Indication of nationality (also dual nationalities) and address of residence.

To apply for Embassy employment please send the following documents to Office of Human Resources, American Embassy, 2 avenue Gabriel 75382 Paris Cédex 08: a letter describing your area of interest, a current CV, a copy of **both sides** of a **valid French Carte de Séjour and Work Permit or French Identity Card**, a copy of your U.S. passport and, if applicable, a copy of your current security clearance. Due to limited staffing, we are unable to give descriptions of jobs over the telephone and we cannot acknowledge receipt of applications. Applicants who wish to receive an acknowledgment of receipt should either send their application by registered mail with return

receipt or enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Successful applicants will be notified when employment in their area of interest is available. Applications will be kept on file for one year.

Employment as a Foreign Service Officer:

Those interested in becoming Foreign Service Officers may consult the following website: (<http://www.careers.state.gov>, and <http://careers.state.gov/officer/index.html>), or should write to the:

U.S. Department of State

(Foreign Service positions)

PO Box 9317

Rosslyn Station, Arlington VA 22219

USA

The Foreign Service examination brochures and application forms are available online at:

<http://careers.state.gov/officer/employment.html>

There are no U.S. military installations in France.

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French Visa Requirements

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U.S. citizens planning to enter and visit France as tourists are not required to have a visa, or a *carte de séjour*, and are permitted to remain in the country for a maximum of 3 months (90 days.)

A U.S. citizen intending to stay in France for more than 3 months (90 days,) to study, to work or to reside, must have the appropriate long stay visa (*visa de long séjour*) in his/her passport prior to leaving the United States and, if applicable, apply for a *carte de séjour*.

For information on visa services at the French consulates in the U.S. please read the information on <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?rubrique83> or click on the entries provided by the Consulate General of the French Embassy in Washington D.C. pertaining to your status below:

Visas for France

- [General information](#)
- [Short stay visa for airport transit, tourism or business \(Schengen \(...\)\)](#)
- [Studies in France](#)
- [Work in France](#)
- [Reside in France or Monaco](#)
- [Spouse of a French or EU citizen. Marry in France with a French citizen \(...\)](#)
- [French overseas "Départements" or territories](#)
- [Diplomats or International Organizations](#)

The visa must be obtained from the French Consulate in the United States that has jurisdiction over the applicant's place of residence in the United States. Applications for long stay French visas cannot be made by Americans in third countries, e.g., England or Belgium, unless the American is a local resident of that country for one or more years.

It is not possible for an American to come to France without a long stay visa and then apply within the country for a residence permit. The French authorities will require such persons to return to the United States to apply for the appropriate visa.

Specific information and application forms are available from the French Consulates in the U.S. (See pages 12-14 for a list of French Consulates.) A visa applicant will be required to submit an application form accompanied by supporting documents: a valid passport, several passport type photographs and proof that the applicant can financially support himself and any dependents who may accompany him during his stay in France. Proof of medical insurance with coverage in France is a prerequisite for issuance of a visa. In some cases, a police clearance record is required. Any applicant less than 18 years old will have to present a written authorization from his parents or guardian. Fees are charged for the issuance of all French visas.

Please refer to the following information for long stay visa reform for students, workers, visitors, spouses of EU nationals:

Since June 1, 2009 a new regulation modified the rules for residence permits for certain categories of long stay visa holders in France:

This regulation applies to **all long stay visas holders** for students, workers, spouses of French and EU nationals, and joining families that intend to live in France more than 3 months (90 days).

1. All persons intending to live, work or travel in France for more than 90 days must have an appropriate long stay visa issued by the French Embassy or Consulate in the United States prior to departure for France.
2. The appropriate long stay French visa will serve as a valid resident permit (*carte de séjour*) for the above-mentioned categories, but only **up to a person's first year of stay in France**.
3. French long stay visa holders will have to apply for a resident permit (*carte de séjour*) at the local French government office (*préfecture*) **only** if they intend to stay in France for more than one year. (In this case, the applicant must check his/her status with the *préfecture* during the last 3 months of validity of the long stay visa.) For full details you may refer to: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article536>.
4. Visa holders will have to register at the local branch of the *Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration* (OFII: <http://www.ofii.fr/>) and submit a form which will be provided with the visa application and that will be stamped by the consulate if your visa has been granted.

Proof of Financial Resources:

Proof of financial resources or support can take the form of: bank statements; formal letters of reference from the applicant's bank showing account numbers and balances or recent bank, savings or brokerage account statements; a notarized letter from the sponsor stating that he/she will be responsible for all expenses and proof of his/her financial means; letters from family or friends guaranteeing regular support or a *certificat d'hébergement* from a French family or friends with whom the applicant will be staying in France. For persons wishing to retire in France, please provide proof of sufficient income: pensions, dividends, savings, bank and brokerage account statements. Such letters and documents should be notarized. Students may submit a letter from a study abroad program guaranteeing board and lodging, evidence of a fellowship or scholarship or, if a veteran, a Certificate of Eligibility from the Veterans Administration.

Medical Insurance Requirement:

You have to apply for a visa with a letter from your insurance company (a copy of your card is not enough) stating that you will be covered in Europe for any medical and repatriation expenses, during your whole stay. (For details see: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article417>)

Students:

American citizens intending to study in France have to apply for a visa prior to leaving the United States if they wish to stay more than 90 days. The visa cannot be issued once the applicant is in France. Please refer to the website of the French Embassy:

<http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article385>

Exchange program: (*convention de stages*)

There is a reciprocal agreement between France and the United States on exchange programs. For more information on this program, please refer to the following website page:

<http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article400>

Au-pairs:

For information on working as an *au pair* please refer the website of the French Embassy in the United States: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article405>

Marriage:

As of June 1, 2009 a new visa procedure for marriage in France has taken effect:

If you plan to marry a French citizen in France, but do not intend to settle in France after the marriage, you should apply for a short stay visa for a private visit to France. If granted, this visa will **not** allow you to settle in France **nor** will you be able to change your visa status once in France. For

more information please check the website of the French Embassy at: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article384> .

If you plan to marry a French citizen in France and plan to settle in France, you should apply for a long stay visitor visa. Once the marriage has been celebrated, your visa will be modified to a residence card for a "spouse of French citizen." This will be done by the French local government office, *préfecture* nearest your place of residence in France. For more information please check the website of the French Embassy at: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article401>.

(See separate information sheet on [marriage formalities](#) in France.) **For more information, please contact the French authorities directly.**

For complete information on obtaining French visas, please consult the French Embassy's website: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org> or, <http://www.ambafrance-us.org>.

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Schengen Treaty Member Countries and Entry Requirements

Schengen Fact Sheet http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4361.html#

Twenty-four European countries are party to the Schengen agreement. This agreement eliminates all internal border controls between them. To enter one Schengen country is to gain up to 90 days of continuous travel between the member states. American citizens traveling for business or tourism are not required to have a visa for this initial entry into the Schengen area, but must have a passport valid three months beyond the proposed stay. (For a two week business trip, the passport must be valid for four months, for a two month holiday the passport must be valid for five months, for example.)

Please note, that while business and tourism visits of less than 90 days to the Schengen countries are visa-free, if you are traveling to Europe for any other reason—employment, study, internship, etc., your host country may require a visa for that purpose, to be obtained prior to leaving the U.S. Please check with the Embassy or Consulate of the country(ies) you are going for their specific requirements.

Although European Union regulations require that non-EU visitors obtain a stamp in their passports upon initial entry to a Schengen country, many borders are not staffed with officers carrying out this function. If an American citizen wishes to ensure that his or her entry is properly documented, it may be necessary to request a stamp at an official point of entry. Under local law, travelers without a stamp in their passports may be questioned and asked to document the length of their stay in Schengen countries at the time of departure or at any other point during their visit, and could face possible fines or other repercussions if unable to do so.

Short stays (under 90 days in the Schengen area without a visa)

A short stay is a stay in the Schengen area (under 90 days) or, multiple stays totaling less than 90 days in a period of six months. Once your stay of 90 days is over, if you intend to leave the Schengen area to return to France, you must leave for a total of 90 days or apply for a visa at the French Consulate in the United States. You may refer to:

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/france_159/coming-to-france_2045/getting-visa_2046/do-you-need-visa_1559.html and

http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article384&var_recherche=visa#1-Main-features

The member parties of the Schengen agreement are:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits.

French Embassy and Consulates in the United States

Website pages:

<http://ambafrance-us.org>

<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article330>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

French Embassy, Consular Services

4101 Reservoir Road NW - Washington DC 20007

Tel: (202) 944 60 00 – Consular Section: (202) 944 62 00

Fax: (202) 944 60 72 – Consular Section: (202) 944 62 12

Embassy website: <http://www.ambafrance-us.org/> – E-mail: info@ambafrance-us.org

Consular Section: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org> – E-mail: info@consulfrance-washington.org

District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia & West Virginia

ATLANTA French Consulate General

Prominence in Buckhead - Suite 1840 - 3475 Piedmont Road, NE – Atlanta, GA 30305

Tel: (404) 495 1660

Fax: (404) 495 1661

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-atlanta.org>

E-mail: info@consulfrance-atlanta.org (see website for visa contact information)

Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia & Tennessee

BOSTON French Consulate General

Park Square Building, Suite 750, 31 Saint James Avenue, Boston, MA 02116

Tel: (617) 832 4400

Fax: (617) 542 8054

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-boston.org>

E-mail: consulat@consulfrance-boston.org (see website for visa contact information)

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont

CHICAGO French Consulate General

205 North Michigan Avenue - Suite 3700 – Chicago, IL 60601

Tel: (312) 327 5200

Fax: (312) 327 5201

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-chicago.org>

E-mail: contact@consulfrance-chicago.org (see website for visa contact information)

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Nebraska & Wisconsin

HOUSTON (French Consulate General)

777 Post Oak Boulevard - Suite 600 – Houston, TX 77056

Tel: (713) 572 2799

Fax: (713) 572 2911

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-houston.org> – E-mail: info@consulfrance-houston.org

Arkansas, Oklahoma & Texas

LOS ANGELES (French Consulate General)

10390 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 410, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Tel: (310) 235 3200

Fax: (310) 479 4813

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-losangeles.org>

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico. California counties of Imperial/Inyo/Kern/Kings/Los Angeles/Mono/Orange/Riverside/San Bernardino/San Diego/San Luis Obispo/Santa Barbara & Ventura. Nevada counties of Clark/Esmeralda/Lincoln/Mineral/ Nye

MIAMI (French Consulate General)

Espirito Santo Plaza, 1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1050, Miami FL 33131

Tel: (305) 403 4150

Fax: (305) 403 4151

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-miami.org>

E-mail: consulat@consulfrance-miami.org

Florida, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands

NEW ORLEANS (French Consulate General)

1340 Poydras Street - Suite 1710 - New Orleans, LA 70112

Tel: (504) 569 2870

Fax: (504) 569 2871

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-nouvelleorleans.org>

E-mail: info@consulfrance-nouvelleorleans.org

Louisiana

NEW-YORK (French Consulate General)

934 Fifth Avenue – New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 606 3600

Fax: (212) 606 3620/ 3614

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-newyork.org>

Consular Section E-mail: chancellerie@consulfrance-newyork.org;

Visa Section E-mail: visa@consulfrance-newyork.org

Connecticut, New Jersey & New York

SAN FRANCISCO (French Consulate General)

540 Bush Street - San Francisco CA 94108

Tel: (415) 397 4330

Fax: (415) 433 8357

Fax Visa Section (415) 591 4810

Website: <http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org>

Alaska, California & Nevada (except LA consular district), Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington & Wyoming, Hawaii & the Pacific Islands under the jurisdiction of the United States

OTHER FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES:

France also maintains a consular agent or an honorary consul in many cities in the United States. Their addresses can be obtained from the appropriate French Consulate. They can perform some consular services but do not issue visas. Complete information on the French Consulates in the U.S. may be found on the following website page: <http://ambafrance-us.org>

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French Residence Permits (*Cartes de séjour*)

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Please refer to the following information for long stay visa information for students, workers, visitors, spouses of EU nationals. More information for students is on pages 21-32.

Since June 1, 2009 a new regulation modified the rules for residence permits for certain categories of long stay visa holders in France:

This regulation applies to **all long stay visas holders** for students, workers, spouses of French and EU nationals, and joining families that intend to live in France more than 3 months (90 days).

1. All persons intending to live, work or travel in France for more than 90 days must have an appropriate long stay visa issued by the French Embassy or Consulate in the United States prior to departure for France.
2. The appropriate long stay French visa will serve as a valid resident permit (*carte de séjour*) for the above-mentioned categories, but only **up to a person's first year of stay in France**.
3. French long stay visa holders will have to apply for a resident permit (*carte de séjour*) at the local French government office (*préfecture*) **only** if they intend to stay in France for more than one year. (In this case, the applicant must check his/her status with the *préfecture* during the last 3 months of validity of the long stay visa.) For full details you may refer to: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article536>.
4. Visa holders will have to register at the local branch of the *Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration* (OFII: <http://www.ofii.fr/>) and submit a form which will be provided with the visa application and that will be stamped by the consulate if your visa has been granted.

For information relating to French residence permits, please consult the *préfecture de police* website in Paris: http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/Ressortissants-etrangers/Titres-de-sejour/Autres-nationalites?&spl_f=

If you live outside of Paris, you may refer to the préfecture or sous-préfecture in your area.

For information and authorization to work in France please see:

<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article360> and
http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article500&var_recherche=etudier%20en%20france

For the different types of “*Cartes de Séjour*” (residence permits) please refer to:

http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/Ressortissants-etranagers/Titres-de-sejour/Autres-nationalites?&spl_f=

and

http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/Ressortissants-etranagers/Titres-de-sejour/Autres-nationalites/Autres-situations?&spl_f=

Retiring in France:

In order to stay in France after you retire, you must prove three things:

- 1) You must prove that you have the financial means to live in France without working; i.e., your pension must be sufficient;
- 2) You must demonstrate that you have comprehensive health insurance coverage that is valid in France. (You may be able to continue your current health insurance or you may need to buy a new health insurance policy either in France or from the U.S.);
- 3) You must demonstrate that you have a place to live in France.

When you make your application at the French consulate in the U.S. to reside in France, you should explain your reasons for wanting to stay in France. If your application is approved, you will be granted a *carte de séjour* mention *visiteur*, which allows you to remain in France but not to work. The *carte de séjour* can be renewed indefinitely, on an annual basis, as long as you present proof that you have adhered to the requirements.

Getting permission to work is more difficult. It depends on the type of work you want to do. The Government of France may not approve any request for a job paying less than 3,700 euro a month

(gross) unless your specialty is in great demand in France. If your request is granted, you should get a *carte de séjour mention salarié*.

More information may be found on the long stay visa application process on <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article401>

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How to Apply for a *Carte de Séjour* in Paris

Americans arriving in France with the appropriate long stay visa with the mention “*Carte de séjour à solliciter dès l’arrivée,*” and planning to live in Paris, must go to the appropriate Centre de Réception des Etrangers (see page 19) with their passport and visa to apply for a *carte de séjour* within **two months of their arrival** in France.

Exception: as of June 1, 2009, most American students, workers, spouses of French and EU nationals, and joining families do not need to obtain residence permits during their first year of stay in France, but must file for a visa prior to traveling to France.

For first applications for a residence card, each applicant should proceed to the *Centre des Etrangers* that corresponds to his/her local address of residence (see next page.) For students, see pages 21-26.)

Documents required by the Prefecture for the first *carte de séjour*:

To apply for your first *carte de séjour*, the following basic documents must be submitted (**others may be required in individual cases**).

- Valid passport including long stay visa (with a photocopy of the title page-photo, name, date and place of birth, validity and French visa page);
- Birth certificate;
- Three (3) identity photographs (3.5 cm x 4.5 cm);
- Proof of financial resources (applicable in all cases);
- A medical certificate issued by the O.M.I. (*Office des Migrations Internationales*);
- Proof of residence in Paris.
- Proof of family relationship and/or professional status

If it is not possible to issue the *carte de séjour* immediately, the applicant will be given a temporary authorization *récapissé de demande de carte de séjour* which is valid for up to 3 months, and may be used as evidence that an application has been made for a residence permit. The applicant should carry it until he/she received his/her permanent *carte de séjour*.

Reception Centers for Foreigners — First Applications for Residence Cards in Paris (*Centres de Réception des Etrangers*)

These reception centers located at the **Hôtel de Police** at each location below are part of the

Préfecture de Police of Paris and are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday; they are not open on French holidays.

- 1) If you live in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th

arrondissements:

Centre de Réception des Etrangers

14, rue de l'Etoile Paris 17ème

Métro: Ternes ou Charles-de-Gaulle Etoile

Tel: 08 91 01 22 22 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m)

- 2) If you live in the 11th, 12st, 13th, 14th, 19th and 20th *arrondissements:*

Centre de Réception des Etrangers du 14e

Hôtel de Police

114/116 avenue du Maine

75014 Paris

Métro: Gaité or Montparnasse or buses 28, 58 or 91

Tel: 0891 012 222 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m)

How to apply for a Carte de Séjour outside of Paris:

Americans who live outside of Paris should inquire at their local *préfecture* or *sous-préfecture* or at the *mairie* (town hall) about procedures for obtaining a *carte de séjour*. In some departments, the *préfectures* have delegated the authority to process such applications to local officials. In others, the American may have to apply at the Direction de la Réglementation of the Préfecture or the nearest Sous-Préfecture.

If you live in Paris, for a Change of address or Renewal, modifications or change of address of residence permits and obtaining copies you must obtain a rendez-vous with the prefecture: please refer to:

http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/Ressortissants-etranagers/Titres-de-sejour/Autres-nationalites/Autres-situations/Autres-cas?&spl_f=

If you live outside of Paris, contact your local prefecture.

For more information on residence permits (in French) contact:

The Central Office of the Préfecture de Police in Paris:

Préfecture de police
Direction de la police générale
Sous direction de l'administration des étrangers
7e bureau
9, boulevard du Palais
75 195 Paris cedex 04
Métro: Cité

Tel: 0891 01 22 22

or

01 58 80 80 58 (Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Website: <http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/Ressortissants-et-rangers>

E-mail: prefpol.dpg-7eb-cellule-postale@interieur.gouv.fr

Please see the following website for more information:

http://www.prefecturedepolice.interieur.gouv.fr/Vos-demarches/Ressortissants-et-rangers/Titres-de-sejour/Autres-nationalites?&spl_f=

If you live just outside of Paris please see following addresses, phone numbers and websites where you may obtain information for resident permits.

Préfecture de la Seine et Marne (Melun 77)	01.64.71.77.77.	
Préfecture des Yvelines (Versailles 78)	01.39.49.78.00.	http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture de l'Essonne (Evry 91)	01.69.91.91.91.	http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture des Hauts-de-Seine (Nanterre 92)	01.40.97.20.00.	http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture de la Seine-Saint-Denis (Bobigny 93)	01.41.60.60.60.	http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/
Préfecture du Val de Marne (Créteil 94)	01.49.56.60.00.	http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture du Val-d'Oise (Cergy-Pontoise 95)	01.34.25.25.25.	http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr

American Students

If you intend to study in France for less than 90 days, no visa requested for American citizens.

American citizens intending to study in France for a period longer than 90 days must apply for a visa prior to leaving the United States. The visa cannot be issued once the applicant is in France. French visas are NOT issued in France. Please refer to the website of the French Embassy and the prefecture de police in Paris for more information:

<http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article385>

and

<http://www.prefecture-police-paris.interieur.gouv.fr/>.

Very Important: Upon your arrival in France, you must make sure that the Immigration Officer at the port of entry stamps your passport with the date of entry.

Students studying for 12 months or less in France:

The student long stay visa, if granted, is a multiple entries visa and is valid from 4 to 12 months, depending on the length of your studies. With such a visa, you will not have to apply for a resident card (« carte de séjour »), as your visa will be valid as resident card during your whole stay.

Before going to France, you must obtain all visa information directly from the French Consulate nearest your residence since each case is specific and relates to French law. If your visa is approved, you will obtain an [OFII registration form](#) (OFII or *l'Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration*). You will complete the top section and the consulate will stamp it and return it to you, if your visa is granted. **Bring this stamped and partially completed form with you to France.** You will then fill in the last portion upon your arrival in France and send it to the closest local branch of the OFII. **You must send in your form within three months of your arrival date in France, and you will be contacted for an appointment. After three months, if you have not obtained the OFII authorization, you are no longer legally in status in France.**

Details on the procedure for completing this document and process to follow prior to your departure to France, as well as steps to take once you have arrived in France are on page 3 of this document [OFII registration form](#).

Upon reception of your file, the OFII will send you a receipt and will provide you with an appointment for **a medical examination. This is mandatory.**

Paris address:

Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII)
48 rue de la Roquette
75011 Paris
Métro: Bastille

If you do not live in Paris you must follow the procedure indicated by the French consulate that issued your visa and send your complete file to the OFII nearest your residence in France.
Your long-stay visa is valid for time period mentioned on the visa.

Your file must be transmitted to the OFII (*l'Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration*) by either:

- **Going to the following center from September 6 to December 10, 2010, and giving the document to the office of the OFII at this address :**

Cité internationale universitaire de Paris
Maison internationale
17, boulevard Jourdan
75014 Paris

RER B / T3: Cité Universitaire

OR

- If your school has established an arrangement with the préfecture de police, [click here](#) your school in France will take care of the necessary formalities for your residence card.
- If your request does not correspond to items one or two above, you must send your file to the OFII by registered mail.

You will need the following documents to obtain your OFII validation at the time of your introductory meeting or Visite d'accueil.

I. *Proof of Identity:*

- Your valid passport
 - a. plus one photocopy of the passport identification page (photo, date and place of birth and validity) and;
 - b. a photocopy of all pages with entry visa stamps
 - c. a copy of your French long-stay visa.
- Birth certificate, with filiation translated into French by a translator licensed by French courts (original plus one photocopy, please refer to separate page for a list of [translators](#)); you may also have this document translated by an official translator in the United States (ask the French consulate for a list.)
- In the case of marriage or divorce, where your name does not appear on your passport, provide a photocopy of the marriage or divorce certificate or an identity certificate issued by the consulate. (see notarial services).

II. *Visa to enter France (original and one photocopy):*

- A long-stay visa, over 3 months, with the mention **student** \Rightarrow *étudiant*;
- or, a short-term visa that mentions *étudiant-concours* (student exam) and an examination certificate as proof of passing the exam for which the visa has been issued.
- If you are married or if you have children, submit a copy of your spouse's residence card and a copy of the birth certificate(s) of the children.

III. *Proof of residence in Paris:*

- If you rent or own an apartment or house: the last electric or gas bill; the last rent receipt, *quittance*; an insurance contract or the rental agreement, if it is less than 3-months old (original and one photocopy);
- If you live in a private person's residence: your host should provide an affidavit *certificat d'hébergement* stating that you live at the address that he/she provides. The host must also provide a copy of his/her identity card or residence permit, the last electric bill, or last rent receipt, *quittance* or house insurance contract;
- If you live in a *foyer* (hostel): please provide a recent affidavit issued by the director of the *foyer*. (This document must be less than three months old).

IV. Proof of resources (original and photocopies):

- Proof of finances: you must provide documents indicating that you have financing at a minimum level of 450 euros per month, if you do not have dependents. Exceptions if you have a scholarship or have been admitted to one of the European Union Special Programs: Leonardo, Erasmus, Jeunesse et Service Volontaire Européen. Present the scholarship documents (financial proof) stamped by the French Consulate for issuance of the visa.
(This is requested for applicants of a first residence card only.)

If you cannot provide financial proof, you must present documents as follows:

If you cannot provide financial proof, or if you are renewing your residence card, or requesting a change in status present all documents pertaining to the current school year as follows:

- If you have a scholarship: An affidavit indicating the amount, the duration and the nature of your studies on the letterhead of the organization that attributes or manages the scholarships;
- If your resources are provided by a guarantor in France: proof of financial sources requires an affidavit of commitment signed by the guarantor, including his name, address, the amount of the monthly allowance and the duration of his commitment, a photocopy of his ID card or residence permit, proof of his/her income (pay sheets, tax returns, etc);
- If your resources are granted by funds coming from abroad, the most acceptable proof of financial resources is a statement from the applicant's bank, travelers checks, exchange forms or any document proving that you regularly receive funds from abroad and indicating their monthly amount;
- If you contemplate working part time, provide a copy of the job offer stating the nature of the job, the number of hours to be worked and the gross salary;
- If you are an *au-pair*: The *au-pair* contract signed by the service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère, 127, boulevard de la Villette, 75010 Paris. If this document is not immediately available, a letter stating the job offering signed by the family who will employ you.

V. Documents justifying your studies (original and a photocopy);

Certificate of pre-inscription or inscription in a private or public institution, university, high school, institution for technical or vocational studies, etc or;

- a certificate stating that you have been admitted on a program of the European Union (Leonardo, Erasmus, Jeunesse et Service Volontaire Européen);
- or an internship contract (*convention de stage, tripartite: étudiant, employeur, organisme de formation*);
- or a professional internship contract signed by the intern host establishment.

VI. Three recent ID pictures, format (3.5cm x 4.5cm) taken full face, no head apparel

VII. Fee of 55 Euros registration fee

The administration reserves the right to ask for additional documents if necessary

Students studying in France for longer than 12 months:

Students who intend to study in France for more than one year and have the appropriate long-stay visa must obtain a first residence card (*titre de séjour*). You must contact the préfecture in your area for instructions. The prefecture de police in Paris may instruct you to go to the student reception center below:

Student Reception Center: you may go to this center without an appointment only if you are obtaining a first residence card and submit your passport with the OFII sticker. (See procedure above.)

Centre de Réception des Etudiants Etrangers

92, bd Ney

75018 Paris

Métro: Porte de Clignancourt - Ligne 4

Telephone: 01 58 80 80 58. Please [click here for office hours](#).

Change of Student Status

For a change of student status in Paris: renewal of a student resident card, copy of a student resident card, change of address, or civil status, etc., you must make an appointment by referring to the [website of the préfecture de police](#) in Paris.

If you would like to extend your stay after the validity of your one-year visa, you must contact the préfecture de police in Paris, or the local préfecture in other areas of France two months before the last day of validity of your visa

If you live in the vicinity of Paris please see following addresses, phone numbers and websites where you may obtain information for resident permits.

Préfecture de la Seine et Marne (Melun 77)	01.64.71.77.77.	
Préfecture des Yvelines (Versailles 78)	01.39.49.78.00.	http://www.yvelines.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture de l'Essonne (Evry 91)	01.69.91.91.91.	http://www.essonne.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture des Hauts-de-Seine (Nanterre 92)	01.40.97.20.00.	http://www.hauts-de-seine.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture de la Seine-Saint-Denis (Bobigny 93)	01.41.60.60.60.	http://www.seine-saint-denis.pref.gouv.fr/
Préfecture du Val de Marne (Créteil 94)	01.49.56.60.00.	http://www.val-de-marne.pref.gouv.fr
Préfecture du Val-d'Oise (Cergy-Pontoise 95)	01.34.25.25.25.	http://www.val-doise.pref.gouv.fr

If you live outside of Paris and vicinity, please contact your local prefecture.

Student Part-Time Employment

DISCLAIMER: The information below relating to French legal requirements is provided for general information only and may not be totally accurate in a particular case. Questions involving interpretations of specific provisions or application to a specific case should be addressed to French government officials. The Embassy is not in a position to intercede with French authorities on behalf of Americans seeking visas, visa exemptions and work permits.

Working in France during your studies.

Students, over the age of 18, who are enrolled in courses at the University level in France:

French law allows foreign students to work under the following conditions :

► a maximum of 964 hours per year can be worked (during the school year : part-time / during vacations periods : full-time, all along within the 964 hours yearly limit).

Temporary work permits are usually given to students who do not have sufficient private resources to pursue their studies. Thus, recipients of student grants or scholarships and those who have sufficient financial means are not authorized to have temporary work permits.

Where to apply for a temporary work permit:

In Paris, students must make an application in order to work on a part-time basis at the: **Service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère**, 127 Boulevard de la Villette, 75010 Paris - Métro: Jaurès or Stalingrad / Tel: 01 44 84 42 86 / 16

Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

American students attending French universities outside of Paris should apply for their *autorisation provisoire de travail* at the Direction Départementale du Travail, Service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère, of the area (*département*) in which they are a student.

Note: Certain types of students must follow rules of normal employment authorization procedures. Please consult the office of the Ministry of Labor, Service de la Main d'Oeuvre Etrangère if you are:

- are working on a Ph.d;
- carrying out research;
- a teaching or research assistant;
- are an doing an internship

Employers may send an E-mail to the following E-mail address for complete details.

PREFPOL.DPG-SDAE-6B-DECLAR-PREALABLE-ETUDIANT@interieur.gouv.fr

How to find part-time employment:

For those students who receive authorization to work part-time, it is up to the student to find his/her employment. Those attending a French university can consult the Centre Régional des Oeuvres Universitaires et Scolaires (CROUS) which will have job opportunities on file. Students can also consult the classified sections of local newspapers.

A good source of information about temporary employment in France is the **Centre d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse** 101 Quai Branly, 75740 Paris Cédex 15, Tel: 0825 090 630. The CIDJ offers a useful information sheet: *Reglementation et Recherche d'Emploi pour les Etudiants Etrangers pendant les Vacances Universitaires* (No. 5.543.) There are several CIDJ in France.

The annual grape and other agricultural harvests in France offer opportunities for students for temporary jobs. Also, some summer camps (*colonies de vacances*) need foreign students because of their language qualifications. Such employment would not come under the 35 hours per week limitation; ask the CIDJ for their information sheet on *Travaux Saisonniers Agricoles*.

The **Council on International Educational Exchange** provides assistance for students seeking employment in accordance with the French Ministry of Labor's requirements. This program allows international higher education students to obtain the necessary documents to work legally in France. Students on the Work in France program need to have an intermediate, or advanced level of French. Students will be asked to find employment and are free to choose almost any position offered. Program participants typically work as waiters/Bartenders, salespersons, teachers, amusement park and hotel staff.

If you would like to know more about this C.I.E.E. program, or find out how to apply, contact:

Parenthèse

(official partner of the CIEE
(Council on International Educational Exchange) in France
39, rue de l'Arbalète
75005 Paris

Tel: 01 43 36 37 07

Fax: 01 43 36 54 48

Work Abroad

Council on International Exchange

<http://www.ciee.org/>

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES:

**Association Inter-Etudiants en Sciences
Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC)**

14 rue Rouen
75019 Paris

Tel: 01 40 36 22 33
Fax: 01 42 05 94 77

**Services des Echanges et des Stages Agricoles dans le Monde
(SESAME)**

9 square Fabriel Faure
75015 Paris

Tel: 01 40 54 07 08
Fax: 01 40 54 06 39

Centre d'Information et de Documentation Jeunesse (CIDJ)

101 Quai Branly
75740 Paris Cédex 15

Tel: 0825 090 630
Fax: 01 40 65 02 61

Club des Quatre Vents

1 rue Gozlin
75006 Paris

Tel: 01 43 29 60 20
Fax: 01 43 29 06 21

Inter Echanges

2 avenue Général Leclerc
75014 Paris

Tel: 01 40 47 54 54
Fax: 01 40 47 54 55

Maison Internationale de la Jeunesse et des Etudiants

11 rue Fauconnier
75004 Paris

Tel: 01 42 74 23 45

Au-Pair Employment

Au-pairs:

The *au-pair* applicant must apply for the visa and obtain it in his/her country of residence prior to leaving the United States. You can only apply for this type of visa if you are between 17 and 30 years old. A long stay (D) visa is required for any stay in France that exceeds 90 days. Since June 1, 2009, the visa issued for an "au pair" stay is also valid as a resident if you stay in France from 3 to 12 months. You don't need to apply for a resident card with this visa and will only need to apply for a resident card if you stay more than a year in France. You will be required to register at the local branch of the *Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration* (OFII: <http://www.ofii.fr/>) within the first 3 months of your stay in France.

For complete information on working as an *au pair* please refer the website of the French Embassy in the United States: <http://www.consulfrance-washington.org/spip.php?article405>

Au-Pair organizations:

The organizations listed below assist students in finding *au-pair* employment. While the Embassy cannot assume any responsibility for the competence and integrity of these organizations, it has verified that all of those on this list are prepared to assist Americans. They usually charge a registration fee for their services.

- Accueil Familial des Jeunes, 23 rue du Cherche-Midi, 75006 Paris; Tel: 01 42 22 50 34
- L'Alliance Française, 101 Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris; Tel: 01 42 84 90 00
- Institut Catholique, 21 rue d'Assas, 75006 Paris; Tel: 01 45 48 31 70

Non Remunerated Employment

Semi-skilled or unskilled work on collective work projects:

Young men and women, including Americans and other foreigners, have the opportunity in France during the summer vacation months to obtain room and board in exchange for unskilled and semi-skilled labor on collective work projects. These projects include agriculture, environment, handicrafts, social welfare, restoration of buildings and monuments, archeology and others -- all in an international educational and cultural context **aimed** at the development of youth. Project sites are located in various regions of France.

Conditions of programs:

Participants do not have to be students, but most programs have a minimum age requirement (see list below.) Some require the participant to be less than 30 years old; others have no age limit. Most expect the participant to work from five to eight hours daily, five days a week. The programs vary in length from a few weeks to several months; some are available the year around. The foreign participant must pay his own transportation costs to and from France, as well as the costs of travel to and from the program site in France. The sponsoring organization usually charges registration and participation fees, including liability and health insurance.

Program Organizations:

At present there are ten associations in France sponsoring voluntary work programs (*chantiers de jeunes volontaires bénévoles*) under the overall administration of **Cotravaux** 11 rue de Clichy – 75009 Paris, Tel: 01 48 74 79 20. The ten associations are listed below. Interested persons should write directly to a specific association for detailed information about its program.

Sponsoring Associations for Non-Remunerated Employment:

Compagnons Batisseurs

5 rue des Immeubles Industriels
75011 Paris
Minimum age: 16
Tel: 01 43 73 70 63

Concordia U.N.A.R.E.C

1 rue de Metz
75010 Paris
Minimum age: 15
Tel: 01 45 23 00 23

Etudes et Chantiers

33 rue Campagne-Première
75014 Paris
Minimum age: 13
Tel: 01 45 38 96 26

Jeunesse & Reconstruction

10 rue de Trévis
75009 Paris
Minimum age: 15
Tel: 01 47 70 15 88

Neige & Merveilles

La Minière de Vallauria
06430 Saint-Dalmas de Tende
Minimum age: 18
Tel: 04 93 04 62 40

Solidarites Jeunesses

38 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis
75010 Paris
Minimum age: 15
Tel: 01 48 00 09 05

Union R.E.M.P.A.R.T.

1 rue des Guillemites
75004 Paris
Minimum age: 14
Tel: 01 42 71 96 55

Solidarites Jeunesses

38 rue du Faubourg Saint-Denis
75010 Paris
Minimum age: 17
Tel: 01 48 00 09 05

Service Civil International

8 rue Camille
75018 Paris
Tel: 01 42 54 62 43

Federation Auberges de Jeunesse

27 rue Pajol
75018 Paris
Tel: 01 44 89 87 27

United States Embassy
American Citizen Services
4, avenue Gabriel
75382 Paris Cedex 08
France
Telephone: 01 43 12 22 22
Website: <http://france.usembassy.gov>
E-mail: citizeninfo@state.gov

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